

Urban Mission Activities

Introduction

Sometimes mission teams are much more visible in village situations than in large towns. Events over the years have shown that you can mix evangelistic outreach with very visible social action in a very effective way. This sort of combination adds credibility to the witness of a mission and gives natural opportunities for mission team members to meet people outside of the Church. It seems to be an approach that attracts young people to mission work, but there is no reason why it should only be for youth.

This resource sheet is not exclusively for larger towns, so you may feel free to include it in smaller town or village programmes, but we see it as perhaps having most value/relevance in larger places (particularly where there are areas of social deprivation).

Setting up such activities

You might want to check out what others have done. Look at other churches and see what you can adapt and use in your community.

What would be **the sort of process to go through** if you wanted to include this element in your mission?

1. **Prayer and vision.** As with any other mission programme item, it's never enough to just do it because "it seemed a good idea". See what emerges as church members pray and think about their community and its needs.
2. **One clear focus.** It's probably better to do one thing well than a raft of such initiatives.
3. **Linking with local organisations.** Could linking with other community groups strengthen your project? Some churches are wary of this, believing it might compromise their witness, but linking with council or tenants' groups can itself be a good witness.
4. **Publicity focus.** This sort of activity is often considered newsworthy by the press, so make links to your Walk mission and gain some valuable publicity for it too.
5. **Your Mission Preparer.** Involve your Mission Preparer, as with any other mission event; he or she will then be able to make sure we have team members able to get involved.
6. **Keeping a balance.** Remember that the focus is on the good news of Jesus; we need to make sure that this still shines through in acts of practical service and is not obscured.